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TEN YEARS OF LIGHT INDUSTRY IN CHUNGKING

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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TEN YEARS OF LIGHT INDUSTRY IN CHUNGKING

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

[Following is the translation of an article submitted by the Chungking Light Industry Bureau in Chung-kuo Ch'ing-kung-yeh (Chinese Light Industry), No. 19, Peiping, 13 October 1959, pages 8-10.]

In the long stream of history, ten years constitute but a short instant. However, within this short instant, light industry in Chungking has already brought about great progress and surprising changes.

From Decaying to Flourishing

Under the old regime, light industrial plants in Chungking City were few and small, with old equipment, backward techniques, and very few products. Because their foundation was weak and because they were oppressed by imperialism and the double political and economic tyranny of the Kuomintang reactionaries, on the eve of Liberation their production dropped sharply and many plants were closed. "Fallen leaves in the autumn wind, and the scene was desolate. There was only one road open and that was deterioration". Such was the apt description of the existing situation in light industry at that time.

Like a spring thunder awaking the good earth, since Liberation day in November 1949, light industry's misfortune has been over. After the Liberation, under the able leadership and careful nourishment of the Party and the Government; owing to the great efforts of all workers and the strong support from related fields; undergoing recovery, rectification, and the great socialist reform and construction in the First Five-Year Plan, and especially through the 1958 production great leap forward, like leafless trees in spring, light industry throughout the city sprouted, giving out new branches,

grown, and become strong. The backwardness left over by the old regime was thoroughly transformed, and prosperity appeared everywhere.

Within the last ten years, the City's value of total light industrial output (including textile industry, same in the following) increased more than seven times; the output of principal products generally increased more than 3-10 times; and old enterprises were rejuvenated. New enterprises are growing continuously; many plants have grown from nothing into something and from small to large; new patterns and varieties appear every day and every month, with quality rising high; product supply not only has met the urgent needs of the whole city and the provincial market, but many products have reached various regions in the country, and some have even reached the world market. The products have received favorable comments.

Comparing these achievements with the situation existing in the pre-Liberation days, when there was "no raw material and no market, but, instead, capital shortage and paralyzed production", the difference between the two should produce two vastly different pictures.

These fairy-tale-like rapid developments and countless exciting examples have strongly proved the able leadership of the Party's Central Committee and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the superiority of socialism, the correctness of the general line, and the greatness of the proletarian strength. The more than 50,000 light industrial workers in Chungking, under the Party's instructions, on the road of victory, are now making great strides towards high production, superior quality, and multiple varieties, to fulfill this year's goals under the Second Five-Year Plan and to over-fulfill this year's goals in production plan with flying advancement.

From Small to Large, from Nothing to Something

Ten years ago, not to mention such things as accordions, glass instruments, clocks and watches, glass utensils, high count cotton yarns, first-class fountain pens, canned goods, industrial papers, and other high-grade products, not even common commodities such as pens, ink, printed fabrics, knitted under-garments, soap, and toothpaste were manufactured in Chungking. More than 80% of such daily necessity goods sold in the Chungking City market such as thermos bottles, cotton fabrics, colored fabrics, enamel wares, soap, batteries, rubber shoes, cotton socks, and towels were provided by Shanghai, Tientsin, and Canton.

Liberation has brought a new life to the light industry

throughout the City of Chungking. Soon after Liberation, under the conditions of extreme shortage in materials and capital, the Party and the Government immediately organized materials and supplied capital for light industry production. As a result, more than 80% of the enterprises rapidly regained production. At the same time, several hundred capitalist light industrial enterprises gradually underwent socialist transformation; every occupation and every trade also underwent adjustment, arrangement, and rectification, so that the productive force of these enterprises speedily developed.

While the Party and the Government encouraged the workers to fully utilize the original equipment in order to increase production, they also helped the various plants to reconstruct and expand their facilities.

Within the last ten years, just the investment for capital construction in the city-operated enterprises alone reached 76,230,000 yuan; the whole city expanded 31 large and medium factories and established new factories, such as: needle knitting factory, thermos bottle factory, stationery factory and a beer brewery, so that the city's light industry has developed from small to large and from nothing to something.

Production has attained its scope and its system has become more complete. Now, Chungking City has become an important light industry base in the province and in the southwest.

Production Value and Production Output Speedily Rising, Varieties Increased and Quality Raised

Through the expansion and increase in enterprises and the continuous rise of technical level, not only production value and production output are rising speedily, but products also have undergone obvious changes; the varieties of products have increased, and their quality has changed from crude to fine.

Under the Party's correct guidance and after a series of reforms, Chungking City's light industry has forsaken the ties of its old production relationship so that productive force has rapidly developed; it has especially attained an unprecedented great leap forward in 1958.

According to statistics, the 1959 production of a number of commodities as compared to those in 1950, increased: rubber shoes increased 3.7 times, thermos bottles 46.5 times, leather shoes nearly 10 times, lead pencils 54 times, fountain pens 7.6 times, pens 400 times, machine-made papers 11

times, liquors 8.6 times, cigarettes more than doubled, canned goods 24 times, enamel products nearly 16 times, accordions 105 times, and all other commodities were at least doubled.

Within the last ten years, the average annual increase in the value of the total light industry output has been 12%. Within these years, the increase in the 1958 great leap forward year, as compared to that of 1957, was more than doubled. Such an increase can never be found in capitalist countries; it can be realized only under a socialist system.

In order to satisfy the increasing demands of the people's material cultural life, old plants and new factories all are asserting great efforts to strengthen their activity to try to produce new products. Many high-grade and delicate daily necessity goods that never before were produced in the country, and many goods that are important in State construction and scientific technology, such as musical alarm clocks, cameras, cut-glass utensils, accordions, flower-fragrance towels, luminous bed-spreads, pianos, high-grade ink, industrial-use papers, high-grade glass instruments, rubber tires, paints, acid-proof enamel-wares, quartz glass, fiber-glass, foam rubber, etc., have undergone successful experimentation and have been put into production. Before Liberation, there were only about 1,000 varieties of products, but now they have increased to more than 6,000.

While raising production output and increasing varieties, various products have been reformed and their quality raised. For instance, enamel products in the pre-Liberation days, not only were crude in appearance, but also were made with homely designs and their chemical weight reached only 6,000 to 7,000 grams. Now, however, their weight has reached more than 12,000 grams, so enamel products have a bright, smooth appearance, with fresh beautiful colors and designs, caught up with the advanced level in any part of the country. Thermos bottles, in the past, were easily broken and could keep things warm only for a very short time, but now, breakage has been lowered and they can guarantee a more than 70°C warmth for 24 hours. They not only have fine bamboo casings but also colorful iron or plastic casings. The canvas rubber shoes manufactured at the time of Liberation had a wearing durability of only 60 to 80 days, but the canvas rubber shoes manufactured now can last for 150 days, and there is a great improvement in their shape.

Owing to the rise in quality and the increase in production output and varieties, many principal products,

such as leather shoes, tooth brushes, glass instruments, blankets, woolen yarns, bedspreads, alarm clocks, and tea thermos bottles are not only distributed in this province and in the south-western region but are distributed over the entire country, and they are enthusiastically welcomed by the masses. Accordions, raw silks, canned goods, high-grade leather shoes, cotton thread socks, woolen fabrics, pillow cases, alarm clocks, machine-made papers, and lead pencils are even exported to the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Singapore, Malaya, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and more than a dozen other countries. This trade has brought a great amount of foreign exchange to the State.

The Number of Workers Becomes Larger and Living Standard Better

Following production's speedy development, the number of workers in light industry throughout the city has rapidly increased. In 1950 the number of workers in the large and medium plants was only about 20,000, but now it has increased to 40,000-60,000. Furthermore, the light industry workers, in political ideology, living welfare, and productive technology, have made great changes.

Before the Liberation, the workers had no political protection. They were oppressed and abused, had pitiful wages, inadequate clothing and food, and they lived like animals. Since the Liberation, however, they have become the State's ruling class and the masters of enterprises; they have no more worries about food, clothing, and housing; nor do they have any more worry about support, sickness and old age. Many workers from the old regime have now become the guiding back-bone in enterprises.

Within the last ten years, the city-operated textile factories alone have trained more than 750 worker cadres, of which there are factory managers, 20 Party secretaries, division supervisors, 180 workshop directors, engineers, 96 technicians, and 1,560 cadres who have been sent to other areas.

The famous labor model, Chao Lan-ying, having been thoroughly trained by the Party, has increased her ideological level and working ability, and in the first part of the year was raised to the position of deputy secretary of the Party Committee in the city's greatest textile printing and dyeing combined enterprise, which has 610 factories.

Of the 12 city-operated textile factories, the positions of manager and vice-manager in nine factories is being occupied by excellent male or female textile workers. Many

apprentices and common workers in the old regime have now become high technical production personnel and enterprise management cadres. Many who were deprived of an opportunity to go to school under the old regime are now excellent students in after-hour high schools or after-hour vocational high schools or evening colleges.

In 1949 the light industry workers' total wage was only 6,460,000 yuan, but in 1958, it increased to 24,840,000 yuan, an increase of 2.84 times. Before the Liberation, there was nothing that could be called living welfare for the light industry workers; but within the last ten years, there are more than 300,000 square meters of improved dormitories, and many factories have even established off-hour medical homes, clubs, health clinics, nutrition dining halls, public health offices, dressing rooms, public baths, infants' homes, children's centers and workers' children schools, and even a series of other welfare measures.

All in all, this is heaven and the other [China] hell and the past cannot be compared with the present.

Labor Production Rate Rapidly Rising--Production Cost Lowered and Accumulation Increased

In order to transform the backwardness of production techniques, within the last ten years, the entire body of light industry workers has been carrying on a tireless struggle. They have studied each operation, each machine, and each product. They have changed the cumbersome hand operation that was in existence for several decades, into tool operated or semi-mechanized or mechanized activities. Much old and backward equipment has been transformed into highly efficient and continuous or automatic machineries.

In 1958, under the Party's encouragement to abolish prejudices and liberate ideas, the factories promoted a technical revolution movement, not only activating production's great leap forward, but also creating favorable conditions for technical reforms. In this movement, there are more than 60 items of technical reforms suggested, of which there are more than ten top items. Because production equipment is being continuously improved and the technical level rapidly rising, light industry labor production rate has also speedily increased. In 1950, the value of each worker's production was only 4,639 yuan, but in 1958, it increased to 15,529 yuan. Labor productivity increased more than two times [sic].

During the last ten years, the factories relied on the masses to eliminate the obsolete regulations that affected

production developments, to establish and strengthen the control system in socialist enterprises, and to arouse the workers' working morale. Especially in the great leap year of 1958, was the spirit of the masses of workers aroused, and their morale heightened. They worked at night as if it were day; they worked one day as if it were two; they made the workshop into a battle field; they used their tools as bayonets and guns. Among them, whether they were enterprise directors, managing personnel, technicians, or workers, they all linked together into a chain. The executive cadres changed their attitude; they dined, lived, and toiled with the workers. The technicians thought as the workers did and, shoulder to shoulder, struggled with them to overcome their common obstacles, and to share with them the joy of victory. While putting great efforts in production the masses of workers were also actively participating in control activities.

Such is the broad road for promoting a mass movement. Under these circumstances, a lively situation has manifested itself. Many things that under ordinary conditions cannot be done are now done; and many things that under ordinary conditions are done slowly are now done rapidly. Working efficiency rises high. At the same time, since Liberation, the factories, following the Party's instructions, educated the workers to operate the enterprises frugally, to increase production, to practice economy and to oppose waste; thus, leakage was stopped in time, raw material consumption lowered, and management expenses greatly reduced.

Because of the continuous rise in the labor production rate, the sudden increase in production, the economy of raw materials, and the reduction of expenses, production cost has been lowered, and accumulation increased yearly. Statistics show that in the city-operated factories alone, from 1950 to 1959, the reduced production cost totaled 38,624,000 yuan, an average annual reduction of 5.14%, and an accumulated reduction of more than 40%.

Within the last ten years, the workers in the city-operated light industry factories worked hard and frugally. They not only lowered production cost but also accumulated 500,000,000 yuan in capital for the State. This capital can be used to build 7.8 combined steel enterprises, each of which could have an annual production capacity of 1,000,000 tons of steel, or it can be used to build 13.5 textile mills, each of which could have 250,000 spindles, or to buy 59,370 tractors, or 5,224,690,000 chin of wheat.